REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 16, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claim 1-3, 6-8, 10-11, and 13-19 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-11, 14-15, and 17-19 are being amended. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejection

Each of claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-11, and 13-19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Neuman et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0162026) in view of Reed et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0035371). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1

Where a network includes a plurality of traffic control devices, control requests from the traffic control devices may logically conflict or inconsistent with each other. A traffic control computing device as recited in claim 1, is configured to determine whether there is a logical conflict among traffic control requests and manage the logical conflict. In the traffic control computing device as recited in claim 1, a traffic control computing unit checks whether a second traffic control request received logically conflicts with any traffic control request stored in a first storage device. If said second traffic control request received logically conflicts with any traffic control request stored in said first storage device, the traffic control computing unit checks compares information about the sender of the second traffic control request with information about the sender of said traffic control request that logically conflicts with said second traffic request received. If both the senders are different, the traffic control computing unit checks sends a notification of the logical confliction to said traffic control computing management interface. These features enable coordination of such traffic control requests, and thus, the whole network control equipment can operate

consistently without being affected by logical conflicts among the traffic request. (See page 9, line 1-14 of the specification.)

In contrast, Newman merely states that a network administrator can specify policies, update agents, patch vulnerabilities, track usage, and manage users all from a central managing server, and that a cache of servlets, are regularly checked against the master repository on the central management console (paragraphs [0089], [0093]). In other words, Neuman merely shows or suggests that servlets, which is a Java application capable of handling HTTP requests, are compared with the master repository. This means that the network management server maintains a universal policy. However, Neuman does not show or suggest determining whether there is a logical conflict among traffic control requests.

The secondary reference of Reed shows a congestion free switching system which handle quality and type of service, multicasting, and trucking. (See paragraph [0047].) However, Reed says nothing about determination and management of logical conflicts among traffic control request. Thus, Reed fails to provide any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that makes up for the deficiencies in Neuman. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art could not and would not achieve all the features as recited in claim 1 by combining Reed with Neuman. Accordingly, claim 1 is not obvious in view of all the prior art cited.

Claims 10, 17, 18

Claims 10, 17, and 18 have substantially the same features as those of claim 1, at least with respect to management of logical conflicts among traffic control requests. As such, the arguments set forth above are equally applicable here. Claim 1 being allowable, claims 10, 17, and 18 must also be allowable.

Claims 2-3, 6-8, 11, 13-16, 19

As to dependent claims 2-3, 6-8, 11, 13-16, and 19, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, 10, and 18 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 2-3, 6-8, 11, 13-16, and 19 must also be allowable.

Conclusion

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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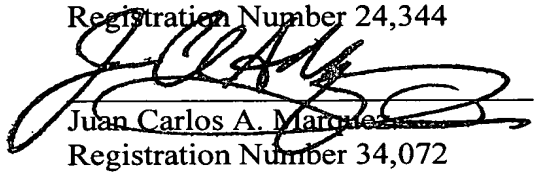

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